



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

# Monitoring and Data Collection: School Safety Programs

*2020*

Authorizing Legislation: [RCW 28A.300.645](#)

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

House Bill 1216 (2019) established the State School Safety Network consisting of the School Safety Center at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Regional School Safety Centers at the state's nine educational service districts (ESDs). Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.300.645 codifies into law the data collection and monitoring component included in the legislation, subject to appropriated funds. Due to significant barriers related to lack of an appropriation and the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of comprehensive data collection and monitoring is not expected to begin until later in the 2021–22 school year.

## INTRODUCTION

The Legislature tasked OSPI with the creation and implementation of a data collection and monitoring to ensure compliance relating to:

- Comprehensive school safety plans (RCW 28A.320.125);
- Planning for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including possible sexual abuse (RCW 28A.320.127); and
- School-based threat assessment programs (RCW 28A.320.123).

Monitoring completion of these plans is to occur at least once every five years. The creation of the data collection and monitoring program has been delayed due to significant barriers related to lack of funding and the COVID-19 pandemic.

RCW 28A.300.645 requires OSPI to submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2020 on the plans for data collection and monitoring and any implementation barriers that could be aided through legislation. The following report outlines the implementation issues and provides a timeline for the creation of the plan and its implementation. This report also provides a report on initial data collected to date from the beginning of implementation of the ESD Regional School Safety Centers, established in RCW 28A.310.510.

## Plans for Implementation

Once funding was allocated through the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget, OSPI was able to recruit for a Business Analyst. The Business Analyst started work in January 2021, and has begun the data collection and monitoring plan, which will be created over the next six months (through June 2021).

The required data collection and monitoring will start in the 2021–22 school year.

## **Barriers to Implementation**

There have been significant barriers to the implementation of the data collection and monitoring required by House Bill 1216 (2019). These barriers include the following:

- Funds were not appropriated for the first year of implementation.
- Upon appropriation of funds, a hiring freeze was instituted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, hindering the ability to acquire staffing to meet the requirements of the law.

## **CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS**

The intent is to create a process for data collection that ensures effective methods are created to allow for continuous process improvement for school districts. This data will inform how the ESD Regional School Safety Centers and the OSPI School Safety Center deploy training and technical assistance across the state. OSPI will provide updated information on the data collection and monitoring in the 2022 report to the Legislature from the School Safety and Student Well-being Advisory Committee, as required by RCW 28A.300.635.

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